THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. Government have notified the Head Post Masters of the Head Post Offices in the country as the Registering Authority for registering cable operators, under clause (h) of Section 2 of the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Ordinance, 1994.

(c) to (e) The Department of of Posts have designated Head Post Offices to register cable operators circle-wise.

Numbers of Doordarshan Channels

1010. SHRI SURESH KALMADI : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) what is the number of Doordarshan Channels at present ;

(b) whether it is a fact that Government propose ro raise the number of channels considerably; and

(c) what is the increased number of proposed and by when the target is likely to be achieved ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO) : (a) Thirteen, Sir. one channel, DD-3, is presently off the air.

(b) and (c) Doordarshan is exploring the possibility of using the digital compression technology as a Pilot Project to increase its channel capacity beyond its existing thirteen channel to sixty channels. No firm date can be indicated for accomplishing this task.

Foreign Media Entry

1011. SHRI VIREN J. SHAH:
DR. BAPU KALDATE:
SHRI VIRENDRA KATARIA :
SHRI JAGIR SINGH DARD :

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) what is the latest position about the proposal for the foreign media entry in the country ;

(b) whether it is a fact that in 1980 the Second Press Commission headed by Justice K.K. Mathew had considered and opposed such a proposal ;

(c) whether it is also a fact that in June 1993, the Press Council stated that it does not favour publication of foreign newspapers/ journals in India involving equity of management participation ;

(d) whether the Chairman of the Press Councils of India, Justice R.S. Sarkaria has recently stated as reported in the 'Times of India' of September 7, 1994 that "The majority of Press Council members have vehemently opposed it, as they feel it is not right.";

(e) whether Government formally consulted the Press Council on this issue, if so, what is its advice in the matter ; and

(f) whether Government will suitably consider the views recommendations of the authorities referred to above on this issue before coming to a final decision ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO) : (a) The Government continues to be guided by the policy decision of